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West Virginia Penitentiary Board of Directors' reports

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Report of the Board of Directors for the Penitentiary, of the State of West Virginia <1867>

Annual report of the Directors and Superintendent of the West Virginia Penitentiary <Year 1867>

Annual report of the Directors of the Penitentiary at Moundsville, W. Va. <Year 1870>

Annual report of the Board of Directors of the Penitentiary, at Moundsville, W. Va. <Fiscal year ending September 30, 1871, Fiscal year ending September 30, 1872>

Report of the Board of Directors of the Penitentiary at Moundsville, West Virginia <December 1, 1874 to December 13, 1876, December 1, 1876 to December 1, 1878, December 1, 1878, to December 1, 1880, December 1, 1880, to October 1, 1882>

Report of the Board of Directors of West Virginia Penitentiary <Two years ending September 30, 1886>

LLMC 00-496t

9

FIFTH

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

DIRECTORS OF THE PENITENTIARY

AT

MOUNDSVILLE, W. VA.

FOR THE YEAR 1870.

WHEELING:

JOHN FREW, PUBLIC PRINTER.

1871.

REPORT.

His Excellency WILLIAM E. STEVENSON,

Governor of West Virginia:

Part of the duties required by law to be performed by the "Board of Directors of the West Virginia Penitentiary" is, that they shall annually report to you of their proceedings during the preceding year; which report, with the accompanying documents, for the year 1870, we have now the honor to submit.

In directing the affairs connected with a State work of so great importance, and of so extensive a character, we trust, that in the financial conduct of the same, we have been governed by the strictest rules of economy; and that with reference to the unfortunate class of persons committed to some extent to our care, we have been actuated and controlled by such feelings and principles as tend to make them better men and women; believing this to be the true intention of punishment as affecting the criminal.

During the year we met once in each month, at which meetings we held free consultations with the Supurintendent and other subordinate officers and employees connected with the institution, touching the affairs of the same, and would here testify to the faithfulness of said officers and employees in the discharge of the various duties to be performed by them, and to their valuable assistance rendered us in the proper discharge of our duties. At each of said meetings we carefully examined into, and passed upon the financial transactions of every character occuring the month; personally inspected the construction of the work; the condition of the convicts and their treatment received. We believe that on examination of the former reports, and comparing the proceedings therein with those contained herein, you will find that the amount of labor accomplished in the construction of the work during the last year ending December 31st, 1870, in proportion to the fund placed at our disposal, far exceeds any former year. At the beginning of the year none of the cells in the south wing were in a condition to receive prisoners, but fifty-six of them—the first tier—were so nearly completed that on the 18th of January they we fully so. Since that time and prior to the 31st of December of the year, the second tier was almost wholly built and was fully completed; the third tier of fifty-six cells within, at most, two months of completion, and the fourth tier commenced. During the year 800,000 bricks were made, and all disposed of by building in

the works and otherwise to the use of the penitentiary. The Warden's house, during the year, has been taken from the foundation, only partly built at the beginning of the year, and prosecuted to that point, that a very trifling expenditure of money and labor will place it in a state that it can be occupied by the 1st of April, 1871, and during the year forty additional bunks for convicts have been manufactured and placed in the cells and hospital. Very nearly all of the labor mentioned was performed by convicts—the hired labor being only such as was actually necessary to render the convicts' labor valuable.

That your Excellency may fully understand the condition of the penitentiary, financially and otherwise, the condition of the health of the prisoners, the deaths during the year, and the infractions of the rules and regulations of the penitentiary by the convicts, we submit as part of this, our report, the accompanying documents, A, B, C, D, being respectively the reports for the year of the Superintendent, Commissary, Surgeon and Treasurer. Of the matters contained in the Superintendent's report we have spoken heretofore, and shall have occasion hereafter to speak. Of those contained in the Commissary's, and the explanatory statement accompanying the same, you will find that this system of subsisting the prisoners has advantages, both in a pecuniary point of view and in view of comfort to the prisoners above any other plan or system; and of the matters contained in the Surgeon's report we can safely say that the condition of the prisoners, so far as health is concerned, will compare favorably with the most favored localities in our State. The Treasurer's report, whilst it shows the receipts and disbursements for the year with reference alone to the fund appropriated by the last Legislature, yet it does not show this important fact touching the disbursements, viz: That for a portion of the year 1869, and for that portion of the year 1870 from the 1st of January up to and including the 4th of March, there was no construction fund available, and that during all that time it was absolutely necessary in the prosecution of the work entrusted to our care, that we should incur the necessary liability, which was done, and amounted in the aggregate to about $7,500. This indebtedness was composed of $3,599.65, incurred during the year 1869, and the balance in the early part of 1870, and was of course paid out of the fund appropriated at the last session of the Legislature in March, 1870—$20,000. After paying this $7,500, we were left with but $12,500 at our command to carry on a work during the year estimated at a cost of about $54,000.

There has been consumed in the construction of Warden's building and cells:

For materials, (stone, iron, lime, &c)	$15,267 11
For labor account, (Superintendent's clerk, stone cutters, &c.)	9,133 22
For expense account, (railroad freight, postage, commission, over time, &c.)	2,182 03
	$26,582 36

This amount has been paid only in part, viz.: The sum of $19,122.53, and the balance remains unpaid, awaiting further appropriation by the legislature. This unpaid balance is made up of amount due labor account, $2,319.26, and amount due supplies account, $5,140.57.

RECAPITULATION.

Amount consumed		$26,582 36
Amount paid by Treasurer and Institution	$19,123 53	
Amount due labor account	2,310 26	
Amount due supplies account	5,140 57	
		$26,582 36

We would here state, that the appropriation made by the Legislature, at the last session of $8,000, on account of Guard Fund, was not sufficient to meet the liabilities on that account, owing partly to a deficit in the appropriation of 1869, and partly to the increased vigilance required during the year 1870, consequent upon the increase in the number of convicts, and the delapidated condition of the stockade; and we found that the month of August last had consumed the last of said $8,000 appropriation. In view of these facts, we would recommend that an appropriation of $17,000 be made by the Legislature, at as early a day as practicable, to meet the past, as well as prospective demands on this fund, during the year 1871.

We would again urge the necessity of the early completion of the east wall of the north wing of the cell building, so as to connect with the outer wall, as this will then render secure that part of the north end of the Warden's building, against any evil designs of convicts that might arise in its present unfinished condition.

We again recommend the early completion of the Warden's building, and to this end, and that the payment of the unpaid labor and supplies accounts above reported, shall be provided for, we recommend an appropriation of $27,000.

For the support of convicts we recommend an appropriation, for the year 1871, of $20,000. This amount, we believe, is required, when we take into consideration the increase in the number of convicts during the last year, and the prospective increase.

The following estimate of the cost of completing the entire buildings, and walls, according to former and present designs, is, we believe, a close approximation to what will prove to be the actual cost.

ESTIMATE.

South cell-building	$ 3,000 00
Coping stone for outer wall, 404 perches $8.00	3,232 00
Rubble " " " " 7,000 " 5.50	38,500 00
Cutting and setting coping, gateway and tower cornice	3,347 00
Total	$48,079 00

We are required to report the rules and regulations adopted for the

government of convicts; the same were contained in our last annual report, and remain at present unchanged.

Through the influence of your Excellency, and that of Superintendent Curtis, we are indebted to the Federal authorities for the use of twenty-five new Spencer Rifles furnished during last year. They have been placed in the hands of the Guards, and to this action we are satisfied we can trace the improvement in the conduct of prisoners since the use of these arms.

In addition to the recommendations contained in the Superintendent's report, we would further recommend an increase in the salary of clerk of the Penitentiary. This recommendation we would most respectfully urge, for the reason that the labors of this officer have constantly increased, and will, and in order that a competent person, such as the present clerk, may be employed, we submit that less than $1,000 per annum will not render an equivalent for the work to be performed.

In conclusion, we would again call the attention of you Excellency to the reports of the Superintendent, Commissary, Surgeon, and Treasurer, which will, we feel confident, be appreciated; that of the Superintendent, showing that he has governed with wisdom; the Commissary's, that the plan of subsisting the prisoners pursued by him, in point of cheapness and comfort to the convict, can scarcely be improved; the Surgeon's, showing a decrease of time lost in hospital by convicts, at the rate of sixty-one days per month during last year, as compared with the year 1869, notwithstanding the increase in the number of convicts in 1870 over 1869.

Hoping that we have discharged our duties as Directors for the year 1870 in such a manner as to merit the approval of your Excellency and the people of the State, whose servants we are, we submit the foregoing.

Respectfully,

GEO. W. BIER,
JNO. K. BOTSFORD,
E. A. HILDRETH,
DANL. DONEHOO,
A. N. PRITCHARD.
Directors.

MOUNDSVILLE, W. VA., Jan. 3, 1871.

"A."

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT.

WEST VIRGINIA PENITENTIARY,
MOUNDSVILLE, January 2, 1871.

To the Honorable Board of Directors of the West Virginia Penitentiary:

GENTLEMEN: I have the honor to submit the 5th annual report of the superintendent for the year ending December 31st, 1870, showing the progress of the work, conduct of the convicts, and accompanied with statistical tables of our transactions, expenditures, number of convicts in confinement, number discharged by pardon and by expiration of sentence, and number received and recaptured during the fiscal year. During the year no escapes have been effected, and for some time scarcely any but trivial punishments have been necessary.

Report of Shoe Shop for the year 1870.

Amount of work furnished convicts		$1,144 35
Amount of work sold to citizens		848 98
Amount of work, stock and tools on hand		575 00
		$2,568 33
Amount of leather account	$1,591 11	
Amount on hand at beginning	479 75	—2,070 86
		$497 47

Statement showing the number of convicts at the beginning, received, discharged, pardoned, recaptured, average number, total number confined December 31st, 1870, *and the several counties from which convicts have been sent since the* 31*st day of December*, 1869, *to and for the* 31*st day of December*, 1870:

COUNTY.	No. at Beginning.	No. Received.	No. Discharged.	No. Pardoned.	No. Recaptured.	No. Deceased.	Average Number.	No. Confined, Dec. 31, 1870.
Berkeley	7	2	1	.....	.....	1	.....	7
Boone	.....	4	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	4
Clay	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Cabell	5	3	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	8
Fayette	1	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....
Gilmer	4	2	2	.....	.....	.....	.....	4
Greenbrier	5	.....	1	1	.....	.....	.....	3
Harrison	1	2	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	2
Jackson	3	3	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	5
Jefferson	3	2	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	5
Kanawha	11	1	1	1	.....	.....	.....	10
Marion	5	5	.....	2	1	.....	.....	9
Marshall	1	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2
Mason	2	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	3
Monongalia	2	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Monroe	4	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	4
Ohio	8	13	1	1	.....	.....	.....	19
Pendleton	1	2	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	3
Preston	5	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	5
Putnam	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Pocahontas	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Raleigh	1	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2
Ritchie	1	3	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	3
Taylor	1	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Tyler	1	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Upshur	1	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Wayne	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	.....
Wetzel	4	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	5
Wood	8	3	4	.....	.....	.....	.....	7
	87	51	17	6	1*	2	100½	114

* Escaped in 1869.

The following is a list of convicts who have forfeited their good time for reduction of sentence, and who have not been previously reported:

Wm. McKesson, insurrection, April 19th, 1870.
Robert Foster, insurrection, April 19th, 1870.
Francis M. Jennings, insurrection, April 19th, 1870.
Noah Snyder, insurrection, April 19th, 1870.
James Carney, insurrection, April 19th, 1870.
Michael Shea, insurrection, April 19th, 1870.
Elijah Black, insurrection, April 19th, 1870.
Stephen Hicks, insurrection, April 19th, 1870.
Robert Richardson, insurrection, April 19th, 1870.

When I entered upon my duty as executive officer of the institution, on the 16th day of March last, there were fifty-six cells completed. We have since had the doors made and hung on fifty-six more, thus completing the second tier of cells, which work has all been done by convict labor. We have also had made during the summer about 800,000 brick, which was also done by convict labor, with the exception of one man employed to superintend the setting and burning, thereby furnishing brick to the State at about $1.50 per thousand, exclusive of the convict labor. This alone has saved the State, at the price it had formerly paid, between six and seven thousand dollars. On account of this and the large amount of work done by the convicts on the Warden's building, (which will be fully shown in your report,) the receipts therefore from the various shops will appear small; but had there been a strict account kept of the amount of work done by convicts upon the erection of the buildings, I am satisfied their earnings have far exceeded the entire expenses of the institution, exclusive of the appropriation for building purposes. I have, according to your instructions, contracted for the material to complete the cell building, and we are proceeding with the work as rapidly as the weather will permit. The doors are now well under way, and we are at work on the stone work of the last story, and expect to have it fully completed by the first day of April, 1871. There will then be two hundred and twenty-four cells completed, which will, I presume, be ample accommodations for all the convicts the State may have for the next ten years. I respectfully suggest that you recommend an appropriation sufficient to complete the Warden's building and erect the outside wall. If this is done the guards may be reduced to one-half the present number now required, which will be a saving to the guard fund of a sufficient amount to pay the interest on the money required, and will render the place secure and prevent escapes, which have formerly been so frequent. If the wall is not completed within the next year or two, the State will be compelled to erect a new stockade in place of the present one, as it is now very unsafe. I would also respectfully suggest that you recommend an amendment of the commutation act of the session of 1869, which provides for a reduction of five days for every

month of a convict's time who is sentenced for two years or upwards, by complying strictly with the rules of the prison. According to the present provisions of the act, if he once forfeits his good time, there is no provision made by which it can be restored to him; consequently there is no inducement to him, in this respect, to be of good conduct during the balance of his term. There should be provision made by which it might be restored to him by the Directors or Superintendent, when they were satisfied he had been sufficiently punished, and had conducted himself properly for a certain length of time.

Good order has prevailed generally throughout the year. The inmates are cheerful and work well, and appear to appreciate the many privileges and ameliorating measures adopted by you for their government, and there is great reason to hope that there has already been a moral reformation effected upon some of them.

If your efforts in this respect can reach the better natures of these down-fallen fellow-beings and win them back to the path of rectitude, you will be amply paid for your labor. We are also greatly indebted to the different clergymen of the place, who, in the absence of a regular chaplain, have kindly given us their services in preaching to them for the last year, and I trust the seed that has been sown may not *all* fall upon stony ground.

I would respectfully suggest that the clerk's salary is not adequate to the duties he has to perform, which are continually augmenting as the work advances and our numbers increase.

I am much indebted to the officers, guards and employees under my control, for their uniform kindness and faithful discharge of their duty, and energy manifested by them in the erection of the buildings.

In conclusion, I beg to render you my sincere thanks for your courtesy during the past year. Hoping the foregoing will be satisfactory,

I am your obedient servant,

WILLIAM B. CURTIS,

Superintendent West Virginia Penitentiary.

"B."

COMMISSARY'S REPORT.

Commissary's Report of Subsistence, Clothing, Bedding, Hardware, Tinware and Hospital Stores purchased for the use of the West Virginia Penitentiary for the year ending December 31st, 1870:

MONTHS.	Provisions, Tin & Hardware.	Clothing and Bedding.	Aggregate.
January	$ 797 50	$ 390 70	.....
February	620 09	14 10	.....
March	886 48	91 42	.....
April	847 77	843 35	.....
May	756 43	65 60	.....
June	1,094 49	14 83	.....
July	1,001 09	24 35	.....
August	1,199 95	.....	.....
September	1,054 48	2383 88	.....
October	1,149 29	21 97	.....
November	819 47	18 00	.....
December	768 69	5 42	.....
Total	$10,995 73	$3,873 62	$14,869 35

RECAPITULATION.

	Provisions, &c.	Clothing & Bedding.	Aggregate.
Amount on hand	$ 557 57	.....	.....
Amount consumed	10,438 16	.....	$10,995 73
Amount on hand	.....	$ 390 33	.....
Amount issued	.....	3,483 29	3,873 62
Total	$10,995 73	$3,873 62	$14,869 35

To the Honorable Board of Directors and Superintendent of the West Virginia Penitentiary:

GENTLEMEN: In submitting to you my report of the commissary department of this institution for the year 1870, you will find in the exhibit of expenses for provisions, clothing, bedding, &c., that the clothing bill this year is larger than the one of last year. In explanation I will just refer you to the fact that the clothing for the year 1868 answered to a great extent towards clothing the prisoners in the year 1869. The two

years' wear rendered them almost useless for service only for a change, so it was necessary to purchase an entire new lot of clothing; consequently that column is considerably larger than the year previous.

The cost of provisions is but a small amount more this year than last, and when you take into consideration that we have had an increase of an average of from eighteen to twenty more men to provide for than in 1869, our provisions have cost us much less than formerly. We have given the prisoners invariably plenty of good, wholesome diet, and warm clothing, at the same time economizing in every way we could. After deducting from the amount all expenses, except the actual cost of provisions, we find that it has cost twenty-four cents per day for each man; and, after an experience of over three years, I am satisfied that amount is as low as it is possible for their support with the present rates of most of the leading articles of provisions and give them the kind they should have for the labor they have to perform.

Hoping this will be satisfactory and acceptable, I respectfully submit it to your honorable body.

Yours, &c.,

A. O. BAKER,
Com. W. Va. Penitentiary.

"C."

Annual Report of the Sick in the West Virginia Penitentiary for the year ending December 31, 1870.

DISEASE.	January.	February.	March.	April.	May.	June.	July.	August.	September.	October.	November.	December.
Diarrhea	2	1	.....	2	2	6	5	5	4	2	2	3
Dysentery	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	3	4	.....	1	.....	.....
Enteritis	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	1	.....	.....
Bronchitis	3	1	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2	.....
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	.....	.....	.....	1	1	.....	.....	.....	1	1	1	1
Neuralgia	.....	.....	.....	.....	2	.....	.....	.....	2	2	1	.....
Pleurodynia	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Spermatorrhœa	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Syrovitis	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Cervic Glands Inf. of Chr.	.....	.....	1	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Lumbar Abscess	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	.....	.....	.....	.....
Scrofulous Abscess	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	1	1	1	1	.....	.....	.....
Opthalmia	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....
Opthalmia (chronic)	.....	1	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	1	.....	.....
Contused wounds	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	1	1	.....	.....	2	2	3
Incised wounds	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Punctured wounds	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Gunshot wounds	.....	.....	.....	1	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Debility	.....	1	1	.....	.....	1	1	1	.....	.....	1	1
Total No. sick each mo.	9	6	6	6	8	10	13	13	10	10	9	10
" " days lost "	72	76	76	74	108	101	131	111	93	104	83	92

DECEASED.

Raz. Lewis, May 31, Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

Sam. Ferguson, December 25, Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

C. D. ADAMS,

Attending Physician.

"D."

WEST VIRGINIA PENITENTIARY, *In account with* E. A. HILDRETH, *Treasurer.*

1869.					
Dec. 21.	To cash on hand	$ 93 16		By amounts paid out on certified orders of Board from December 21st, 1869, to December 31st, 1870, (as per vouchers)	$20,199 50
1870.					
Mar. 14.	Auditor's check	7,583 32			
" 18.	" "	12,416 68			
			1870.		
Nov. 3.	Check No. 670, returned to Treasurer by order of Board	187 50	Dec. 31.	Cash on hand	81 16
		&20,280 66			$20,280 66

All of which is respectfully submitted.

WHEELING, December 31, 1870.

E. A. HILDRETH, Treasurer.